(a) whether Government have received a large number of complaints against the employees of Air Traffic Control Department of Airports Authority of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any action in the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Complaints were received against the Air Traffic Controllers (ATCs) during their agitation in April, 1997, November, 1997 and February, 1999.ATC Guild resorted to flash strike in April 1997, which resulted in total stoppage of all activities in civil aviation sector. ATCs Guild again resorted to go slow tactics in November, 1997 disturbing schedule of flights. During 1998 the shifting of ATC operations to new ATC complex at Delhi commissioned with most modern facilities at a cost of Rs. 210 crores approx, was unduly Delayed for 8 months due to their irrational demands. ATCs Guild again resorted to "work to Rule" agitation in February, 1999, resulting in dealyed flights all over the country for a period of 18 days.

(c) to (e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) filed an application in the Delhi High Court and the Hon'ble High Court restrained the ATCs from resorted to agitational approach and go slow activities. Disciplinary action was initiated against the ATC and six ATCs were dismissed from the service of AAI.

Measures to Prevent Accidents in Airports

†1980. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the persons held responsible for the death of a girl child in moving escalator at Indira Gandhi International Airport alongwith the number of arrest made for carelessness and want of maintenance due to which accident has taken place; and

(b) the arrangements made for the prevention of such accidents in the future alongwith the details of the incident?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THEMINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) On 13th December, 1999, an accident took place at 02-50 Hours in the international arrival hall at Indira Gandhi International Airport. When the comb plate and the foot plate of the escalator got shifted under pressure creating a gaping hole resulting in the death of a girl child. A high level Committee headed by Shri R.C. Jain, IAS (Retd.) set up to look into the accident, has, in its interim report submitted on 7-2-2000, held OTIS, the company which installed the escalator and Airports Authority of India (AAI) responsible for poor maintenance and supervision of the escalator. AAI has initiated disciplinary action against four employees.

The following steps have been taken by AAI to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future:—

(1) The escalator and other such equipments are being upgraded;

(2) Instructions for use of these equipments have been displayed prominently for the benefit of the users; and

(3) The staff of all the agencies at the airport have been imparted familiarisation training for use of the equipments and for dealing with any unforeseen situation.

Discrepencies in Tender for Haj Pilgrims

1981. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Aviation Authorities intentionally avoided floating of a global tender for carrying Haj pilgrims despite directive of the previous Minister;

(b) whether it is a fact that when a tender was invited in November 1999, top Air India officials ensured that the other five bids were rejected;

(c) whether for not floating the tender earlier the officials used the election Code of Conduct as an excuse when it has to do nothing with annual Haj operations; and

(d) whether a configurations charges extra of $ 50 each passenger have been levied when the aircraft for the pilgrims come fitted with proper seats?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Air India had floated global tender on 9.11.1999 to invite bids for